



# The Oceanography Report



H.M. CHARTERER PREPARING TO SURVEY, 1972

Editor: David A. Brooks, Department of Oceanography, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843 (telephone: 409-845-6527).

## New Directions For The National Ocean Service

Paul M. Wolff

The National Ocean Service, which I've headed since December 1983, is one of the major line components of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA, in turn, is part of the Department of Commerce and is the leading federal agency in the oceanic and atmospheric sciences. Other agencies are involved in the earth sciences, such as the Department of the Interior's Geological Survey, or are in the business of environmental regulations, like the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, but NOAA is the one federal agency charged specifically with analyzing and predicting oceanic and atmospheric components of the earth's environment as a whole. The importance of this global, integrated sea-air approach is reflected in the five NOAA offices.

This past December, NOAA line offices were reorganized to consolidate programs as part of the Reagan Administration's general government-wide belt tightening (see Figure 1). The idea was for NOAA to grow leaner but stronger. The main thrust of the work of the Weather Service and the Marine Fisheries Service remained the same. The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research continued to provide research support to the other NOAA components. A trimmed-down Environmental Data and Information Service merged with the National Environmental Satellite Service to become today's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service. Also, this past December the NOAA Office of Coastal Zone Management joined forces with the National Ocean Survey to become the National Ocean Service.

This change from Ocean Survey to Ocean Service was more than just a name change; it gives a clue to other changes and new directions for NOAA in general and the National Ocean Service in particular. What is being done throughout the NOAA team is to emphasize "service," to make NOAA products and services more responsive to the needs of users. Right now, the National Ocean Service and other NOAA components are re-evaluating many traditional products and services that build on existing NOAA capabilities and expertise.

Today's National Ocean Service is made up of four line offices that carry out its major functions: charting and geodetic services, oceanography and marine services, ocean and coastal resource management, and marine operations. (Since this article was written, the National Ocean Service has further realigned its programs to improve products and services by creating a new line office solely responsible for ocean services and external affairs.) (See Figure 2.)

The Office of Oceanography and Marine Services is one of the newest line elements of the National Ocean Service. Whereas today it is one of NOAA's busiest line offices, only a few years ago it was only a division of a line office. This expansion in NOAA oceanographic programs probably best reflects one of the new directions that line offices are moving in throughout NOAA. Through the Office of Oceanography and Marine Services, NOAA collects, processes, and analyzes a wide range of data and information that describe the physical processes of the oceans, the U.S. coastal zone, estuarine waterways, and the Great Lakes. But whereas the Ocean Service formerly collected these types of hydrographic data primarily to support in-house charting and surveying functions, the

coastal waters of the new republic. Working closely with other NOAA and Ocean Service offices, the Office of Charting and Geodetic Services will have a lead role in surveying the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that President Reagan declared in March of 1983. The EEZ Proclamation "confirms U.S. sovereign rights and control over the living and non-living natural resources of the seabed, subsoil and superadjacent waters beyond the territorial sea but within 200 nautical miles." National Ocean Service responsibilities will include in-depth and comprehensive physical, biological, and chemical assessments. This is a massive job that will change many of the ways NOAA surveys and makes observations. In addition to the hydrographic surveys NOAA conducts by ship, it will be necessary to greatly increase the use of both fixed and floating platforms, including those designed specifically for ocean observations and commercial platforms intended for other purposes, such as oil and gas exploration. The goal is to double the amount of marine observations in a year and to increase them 10 times over the next 5 years.

The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management is the part of NOAA that was added to the old National Ocean Survey to make the new National Ocean Service. Through this office, NOAA provides the coordination and expertise at the federal level needed to balance the often competing demands to preserve and to develop the marine resources within the U.S. coastal zone. This office works closely with coastal states, and as these various states win approval for their coastal zone management plans and develop their own coastal programs, involvement at the federal level will be phased out.

The Office of Marine Operations is the Ocean Service component that manages and operates NOAA's fleet of research and survey ships, which collect basic marine data used by all the other NOAA components. Since ships and time at sea are very expensive, this is one area in which NOAA is trying especially to improve productivity and efficiency. One way to achieve these goals is to share ship time with other federal and state agencies, universities, research organizations, and other groups and individuals in the private sector. This piggy-backing of experiments and multi-use cruises result in more economical use of NOAA ship time, while at the same time improving the productivity of individual cruises. NOAA is also installing new equipment on the NOAA ships, including Global Positioning System receivers, SEAS transmitters to relay meteorological data directly to the Weather Service for processing, multi-beam sensors, new CTD profilers, and perhaps most important, a new automated hydrographic data acquisition and processing system called the Shipboard Data System (SDS) III. SDS III is replacing the mainstay hydrographic data acquisition and processing system of the NOAA Fleet, the Hydrolog/Hydroplot System. Hydrolog/Hydroplot and the Digital Equipment Corporation's SDS-8/6 computer, one of the earliest minicomputers. One of the biggest problems faced by NOAA in recent years was that the NOAA ships were able to collect much more data than could be processed expeditiously. This resulted in a huge data backlog that NOAA is now vigorously trying to reduce. The goal is to eliminate existing backlog and establish systems to complete data processing end-to-end within 60 days of the time the data are received from ships or other sources.

The Office of Oceanography and Marine Services is one of the newest line elements of the National Ocean Service. Whereas today it is one of NOAA's busiest line offices, only a few years ago it was only a division of a line office. This expansion in NOAA oceanographic programs probably best reflects one of the new directions that line offices are moving in throughout NOAA. Through the Office of Oceanography and Marine Services, NOAA collects, processes, and analyzes a wide range of data and information that describe the physical processes of the oceans, the U.S. coastal zone, estuarine waterways, and the Great Lakes. But whereas the Ocean Service formerly collected these types of hydrographic data primarily to support in-house charting and surveying functions, the

Office of Charting and Geodetic Services produces NOAA's nautical and aeronautical charts, special purpose marine maps, and geodetic products and services. This is the heart of the Ocean Service's predecessor agencies, since the agency was founded in 1807 during the administration of Thomas Jefferson to survey and chart the Atlantic

### NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

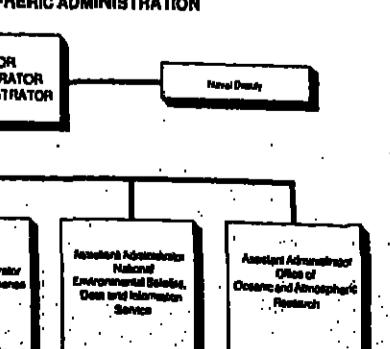


Fig. 1. NOAA organization chart.

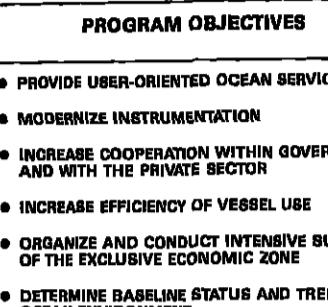
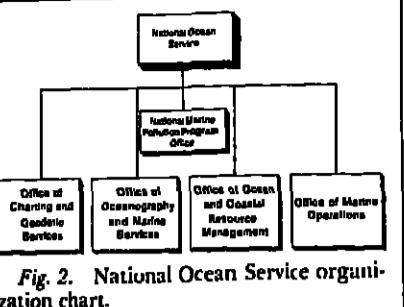


Fig. 3. Program objectives.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY END OF FY 1988

- ESTABLISHED AND OPERATING NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE CENTER NETWORK AND SUPPORTING PROCESSING CENTERS
- MODERNIZED AND EXPANDED OBSERVATION CAPABILITIES FOR NOAA FLEET
- SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED USE OF NOAA FLEET WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES AND USERS
- REPAID OUTMODED DATA ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS
- ELIMINATED DATA BACKLOG AND ACHIEVED 90- DAY PROCESSING AND AVAILABILITY TIMES

Fig. 4. Accomplishments by end of fiscal year 1986.

engineering and coastal management uses of these observations have now become just as important. The National Ocean Service still produces tide predictions, tidal current predictions, tidal current charts, and other traditional data products that are primarily nautical chart related. But greater emphasis is now being placed on oceanographic and marine information products that provide the scientific basis for offshore oil and gas exploration, dredging operations, coastal and offshore construction, emergency planning programs of coastal communities, and other engineering applications. There now is also an entire division within the Office of Oceanography and Marine Services to conduct assessments of the multiple uses of marine resources and project the impacts of these activities on the environment. A major goal here is to establish baseline environmental conditions so that it is then possible to determine trends in the ocean environment.

Finally, the report considers the international setting. Many countries are participating in the planning of a global research program that addresses all aspects of the problem of climate: the World Climate Research Program (WCRP). The report reviews WCRP plans and advises on how American ocean climate research activities can fit within the world program, can aid it, and can benefit from it.

### Role of the Ocean in Climate Variability

What are the mechanisms, if any, by which the ocean influences year-to-year variations in the earth's climate? Does the ocean play a role in producing climate anomalies, such as droughts, floods, heat waves, and abnormal frosts? If it does, we can understand the processes whereby this occurs? Can we develop a capability for predicting climate change?

We know that the ocean plays a major role in determining the mean climate state of the world. It is critical in controlling global patterns of precipitation and evaporation. The ocean absorbs energy from the sun and releases energy to the atmosphere at times and places distant from the point where the energy was received. The seasonal temperature range is reduced over land areas adjacent to the ocean because of the large heat inertia of the ocean.

The oceanic poleward flux of heat is of the same order of magnitude as the atmospheric, but the processes of oceanic transport are not well understood. To understand the mean climate state of the world, we must take account of the role of the ocean in establishing and maintaining the global heat balance. However, the mean climate state of the ocean is not well understood. Unless oceanic variability can be defined in terms of its departure from some mean state, we may be unable to explain the influence of the ocean on global climate.

Both ocean and atmosphere show climate variability on time scales of months to centuries. The annual or seasonal cycle is generally large, but the nonseasonal variability can exceed the seasonal, particularly in some oceanic areas. Ocean heat, storage, transport, and transfer to the atmosphere are variable. It may be that such variations are the principal oceanic factor controlling climate variability. Thus an understanding of the uptake, transport, storage, and release of heat by the ocean may lead to an understanding of global climate variations.

Models of the atmosphere with and without a moving ocean show that the ocean influences the mean atmospheric temperature distribution. The circulation of the ocean appears to affect climate variability on all scales. Thus there are proposals to study the general

circulation and the climate state of the ocean. Ocean heat transport and storage processes have lifetimes that are long in comparison with those of the atmosphere. Atmospheric predictability may be limited to week or two. But the chain of events in the Southern Oscillation, a global-scale atmospheric and oceanic climate anomaly, has a duration of about 18 months. Through the ocean and atmosphere interact, this long time scale seems to be dominated by the high thermal and mechanical inertia of the ocean. Thus, long-range climate forecasting probably must take ocean processes into account.

studies explicitly directed to decadal climate scales have emerged in the World Climate Research Program.

Long-period climate variability, having time scales between decades and centuries, is not well documented [Held, 1981]. The study of such phenomena obviously requires a long-term commitment. The economic impact is uncertain. It is even unclear how to make use of knowledge of long-term climate variation if it were available.

### Interannual Variability of the Tropical Ocean and the Global Atmosphere

The Southern Oscillation, a family of naturally occurring, interacting phenomena in the ocean and atmosphere that produces climate anomalies, provides an opportunity to carry out experiments in interannual climate forecasting and to develop a climate prediction capability. The phenomena that make up the Southern Oscillation (e.g., anomalies of sea-surface temperature, atmospheric pressure, precipitation, and temperature) are found in the tropical ocean and global atmosphere. In addition, some component processes of the Southern Oscillation, centered in the Pacific Ocean, may have analogues in the other tropical oceans. A study of these phenomena, their properties, their linkages, and their climate consequences holds promise of providing a predictive capability that far exceeds what can be achieved through atmospheric studies alone.

Climate variations having scales of approximately a decade, with important economic effects, are known to exist but are less well documented than those of annual time scale. There is evidence that the ocean plays a role in decadal climate variability, and some proposals for large-scale ocean experiments to understand decadal variability have been made. The consensus seems to be that to develop a predictive capability, research on interannual climate phenomena should have first priority. At this time, no plans for ocean

studies, the early evolution of Southern Oscillation appears to occur in the atmospheric circulation over the southern Indian Ocean.

An experiment to study the Southern Oscillation and other interannual climate variation has been proposed. It is called the Interannual Variability of the Tropical Ocean and the Global Atmosphere Experiment (TOGA). TOGA is an exciting opportunity. The Southern Oscillation is a strong climate signal. The economic benefit that could be derived from predicting the associated climate anomalies could be great. A number of excellent scientists are enthusiastically working on the problem. Progress is being made in data analysis, field experiments, and theoretical work. On the negative side, there is as yet no comprehensive theoretical framework for TOGA. The first fragments of a theory exist, and some linking physical mechanisms have been hypothesized. However, there is not yet a strong enough base of theory to design a full TOGA experiment with assurance.

To summarize, the Southern Oscillation presents a strong natural signal that promises a predictive capability for climate variations in temperate latitudes. The opportunity to study this phenomenon should not be missed, and the United States should support a major TOGA experiment in the Pacific. At the same time, complementary TOGA research activities should be supported in the Atlantic and Indian oceans, though other nations may play the principal role there.

### Heat Transport Studies

Transport and storage of heat by the ocean is central to all theories of the role of the ocean in global climate and thus is central to predicting climate variations. As the study began, there were a number of proposals for major heat flux experiments. These experiments are now likely to take place as components of WOCE and TOGA.

The ocean dominates the energy storage of the combined ocean-atmosphere system. Heat can be stored in the ocean for periods that are long in comparison with atmospheric residence times. The ocean can transport this heat and give it up to the atmosphere far from the place where it was received. *Orlt and Vonder Haar* [1976] estimate that the ocean has a heat transport poleward from the tropics to mid-latitudes as large as mid-latitude atmospheric transport.

A large-scale oceanographic experiment to examine global ocean circulation and ocean climate processes is proposed. The World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE) will be directed at describing the circulation of the ocean, defining the linking physical processes in the ocean-atmosphere climate system, and understanding the sensitivity of that system to forcing by changes in the atmosphere.

Recent oceanographic studies have exposed a number of processes that could be important to the ocean's role in climate variability: mesoscale eddies, tropical waves, isopycnal mixing, the seasonal variation of the mixed layer, and mixing in the interior of the ocean. Computer models of the large-scale ocean circulation underlie the importance of some of these processes. Thus, to observe and understand the climate relevant to the ocean, we need to describe the processes relevant to climate in the ocean in enough detail to model them.

A major obstacle to obtaining observations of the ocean is the difficulty of obtaining measurements over long time scales and over great distances. Recent technical developments and new means of making measurements have made it feasible to consider carrying out a global experiment to understand the role of ocean circulation in climate. Orbiting satellites give promise of regular global measurements of sea-surface temperature, surface currents, and the wind stress on the sea-surface. If these observations are combined with subsurface remote sensing, it may be possible to develop a description of the ocean that, for the first time, would begin to be as complete as our description of the atmosphere.

Many of our ideas about North Atlantic heat flux are stimulated by the direct estimate of *Hall and Bryden* [1982] of the poleward heat flux across 25°N latitude in the Atlantic. A corresponding estimate for the Pacific does not exist. In fact, the order of magnitude of the Pacific poleward heat transport is not known. We are being held back by the lack of a trans Pacific Ocean poleward heat flux measurement.

### Ocean Climate Monitoring

Monitoring, the collection of regular observations of the ocean and atmosphere over large regions for long periods of time, is a necessary element for progress in understanding climate variability. Yet, there is so far no commitment to establishing large-scale ocean climate monitoring programs, particularly in the ocean.

The long time scale of ocean climate anomalies may be an important factor for forecasting, but the length of time needed to describe and understand them presents a problem in experimental design. Events like the Southern Oscillation occur sporadically (typically at 2- to 7-year intervals) and have a cycle length of about 2 years. Such large-scale ocean-atmosphere interactions must be described over several events because of their complex nature. A description of a single event would not be sufficient to understand the phenomenon because each occurrence is different. An ensemble of descriptions is needed to separate out overlapping events and to define the phenomenon. Thus the time needed to describe and understand the Southern Oscillation is long.

It is also important to have some means for ocean climate monitoring that can give regular, reliable, and repeated oceanic and atmospheric observations over the course of many years.

The next steps need not be elaborate. Many proposals for doing this have been made. The *Ocean Science Committee* [1974], in a series of workshops led by Henry Stommel, recommended the establishment of "phantom weather ships." In this program, commercial ships would collect measurements as they passed certain designated points in the ocean. The resultant time series would provide regular samples at fixed locations much as the ocean weather stations did but without the expense of maintaining them.

*Oceanography* (cont. on p. 468)

### Cover: The Olympic Yachting Venue Chart

Subscription prior to members is included in annual dues (\$20 per year). Information on institutional subscriptions is available on request.

Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. *For Transmissions, American Geophysical Union (ISSN 0008-3694)* is published weekly by

American Geophysical Union  
2000 Florida Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20009

Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect official positions of the American Geophysical Union.

Copyright 1984 by the American Geophysical Union. Material in this issue may be photocopied by individual scientists for research or classroom use. Permission is also granted to use short quotes and figures and tables for publication in scientific books and journals. For permission for any other uses, contact the AGU Publications Office.

Correlations between the Southern Oscillation and North American climate anomalies were first described in the 1930's by Sir Gilbert Walker. Since that time there has been growing evidence of the reality of these correlations. Wintertime temperature anomalies are correlated with earlier atmospheric pressure anomalies over the South Pacific and with sea-surface temperature anomalies in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

From the viewpoint of the United States, the correlations of the Southern Oscillation with North American climate anomalies present an intriguing challenge. Can the Southern Oscillation be used to predict wintertime climate anomalies over the United States a season in advance?

Correlations between the Southern Oscillation and North American climate anomalies were first described in the 1930's by Sir Gilbert Walker. Since that time there has been growing evidence of the reality of these correlations. Wintertime temperature anomalies are correlated with earlier atmospheric pressure anomalies over the South Pacific and with sea-surface temperature anomalies in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Subscription prior to members is included in annual dues (\$20 per year). Information on institutional subscriptions is available on request.

Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. *For Transmissions, American Geophysical Union (ISSN 0008-3694)* is published weekly by

American Geophysical Union  
2000 Florida Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20009

Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect official positions of the American Geophysical Union.

Copyright 1984 by the American Geophysical Union. Material in this issue may be photocopied by individual scientists for research or classroom use. Permission is also granted to use short quotes and figures and tables for publication in scientific books and journals. For permission for any other uses, contact the AGU Publications Office.

Correlations between the Southern Oscillation and North American climate anomalies were first described in the 1930's by Sir Gilbert Walker. Since that time there has been growing evidence of the reality of these correlations. Wintertime temperature anomalies are correlated with earlier atmospheric pressure anomalies over the South Pacific and with sea-surface temperature anomalies in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

From the viewpoint of the United States, the correlations of the Southern Oscillation with North American climate anomalies present an intriguing challenge. Can the Southern Oscillation be used to predict wintertime climate anomalies over the United States a season in advance?

Correlations between the Southern Oscillation and North American climate anomalies were first described in the 1930's by Sir Gilbert Walker. Since that time there has been growing evidence of the reality of these correlations. Wintertime temperature anomalies are correlated with earlier atmospheric pressure anomalies over the South Pacific and with sea-surface temperature anomalies in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Subscription prior to members is included in annual dues (\$20 per year). Information on institutional subscriptions is available on request.

Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. *For Transmissions, American Geophysical Union (ISSN 0008-3694)* is published weekly by

American Geophysical Union  
2000 Florida Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20009

Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect official positions of the American Geophysical Union.

Copyright 1984 by the American Geophysical Union. Material in this issue may be photocopied by individual scientists for research or classroom use. Permission is also granted to use short quotes and figures and tables

**Oceanography (cont. from p. 467)**

great expense of maintenance. There has been no move toward implementation. The obstacle seems more to be a lack of coordination than a lack of money.

Another source of climate information could be gained by extending the global network of sea-level observation. This would be particularly effective if extended to isolated islands. Proposals for sea-level observations go back many years. Since it is relatively inexpensive (e.g., compared with satellites), what is holding us back? International coordination is an issue. In addition, the collection of simple sea-level measurements over many years is not perceived as an attractive activity. The payoff is distant, the technology is not glamorous, and the program demands a long-term commitment. Nevertheless, to advance our knowledge of the ocean's role in the global climate system, sea-level measurements are important and effective.

To develop an effective ocean climate monitoring methodology, estimates of the space and time spectrum of oceanic variability for many regions of the ocean are first needed. Further, trial time series can explore the possible benefits of and practical means for monitoring various regions of the ocean. We call such short-term observational programs "exploratory time series."

Exploratory time series should be designed to resolve the spectrum of variability, to examine the feasibility of observational techniques, and to assess the benefits that might be obtained from future monitoring. They should be geographically dispersed, incorporated into large-scale oceanographic experiments, and used as a preliminary to ocean climate monitoring. Research scientists will normally design and establish the exploratory time series and analyze and review the results. Ocean climate monitoring, on the other hand, will normally be an operational activity, as monitoring is now in the atmosphere.

Although exploratory time series are a useful preliminary step, ocean climate research programs will need a reliable source of routine global data. Thus, there ultimately must be a commitment to ocean climate monitoring.

**Other Ocean Climate Research Issues**

The large, internationally sanctioned ocean climate programs receive most of the attention, here as elsewhere. Yet a number of competent ocean scientists concerned with the climate variability problem are not convinced that they should work within the big programs. Oceanography has a tradition of independence. Some oceanographers interested in climate are reluctant to relinquish that independence in order to work within the large programs.

Ocean climate research is concerned, by definition, with global scientific questions. Can they be effectively addressed by independent studies? The easy course of action, and one that is not hard to defend, is to insist that oceanographers (and perhaps meteorologists) work together to study climate. Nevertheless, many ocean scientists who lack the taste for big programs have the potential to make progress in understanding climate. These people should not be excluded because they prefer not to work in big science. Whatever decisions are made about the big programs, NSF should continue to be flexible enough to support good ocean climate research ideas even when they are outside the "approved" framework.

Some oceanographers contend that global ocean climate planning is overblown and perhaps even unrealistic, that it does not take account of the difficulties in obtaining reliable data in the field, and that a better description of the ocean's structure and circulation is needed before moving on to understanding the ocean's role in climate. They argue for smaller field programs.

There is concern, too, that a global program should not begin before we are scientifically and technically ready to carry it off well. If we were to try prematurely and fail, it is likely that the funds to do it right would be a long time in coming.

A number of ideas for ocean climate research outside of the official programs have been presented that could improve our knowledge of climate variability. Some of these ideas may end up as components of the big programs (like WOCE) as program planning evolves. Among the ideas are the following:

1. Make a few long, deep hydrographic sections intended to provide a base of information about interior low-frequency ocean movements and dynamics.

2. Maintain and perhaps extend island tide stations in the western Pacific Ocean.

3. Maintain the Pacific XBT monitoring program, TRANSPAC.

4. Carry out some small experiments to understand the physical processes that are important components in climate, such as air-sea fluxes of heat, water, and momentum.

Some ocean studies that may be important are less fashionable. Few oceanographers are studying the polar regions. Is the role of the ice-covered regions in climate variability receiving enough attention? This question has been reviewed, but there has been little followup.

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) does not now explicitly support ocean climate re-

**National Coordination**

An ocean research program to understand climate change is too large to be supported by a single U.S. government agency. Several agencies will have important roles to play. However, a review of climate documents reveals that agencies often do not have a clear image of their role. One sometimes gets the impression that no clear criteria have guided an agency's choice of research.

The National Climate Program Office (NCPO), housed in NOAA, is responsible for administering the National Climate Program and coordinating among the agencies in the program. NCPO looks to NSF, lead agency, for development of plans, budget requirement, agency responsibilities, and progress reports related to the Ocean Heat Transport and Storage Principal Thrust.

The NSF, as lead agency for Ocean Heat Transport and Storage, has the de facto responsibility for oversight of the national ocean climate research program. NSF has been doing this through informal meetings with representatives of other agencies and by making extensive use of the National Research Council (the Board on Ocean Science and Policy and the Climate Research Committee, in particular). If problems arise that involve the setting of priorities among the agencies, it may be necessary to set up a more formal steering mechanism.

All the lead agencies in the National Climate Program have had difficulty in coordinating their components. There is thus no good model for NSF to follow. NSF is the largest supporter of ocean climate research and has credibility with the other agencies in its lead role.

NSF research programs related to climate have typically involved collaborative research projects from a number of institutions. These programs may have a duration of from 3 to 5 years. Such a mode of operation tends to yield results that respond to specific scientific questions but is not well suited to programs that require a continuing year-after-year commitment. Long-term programs need to be part of a climate research program, and, hence, there is a need for other agencies that can support them to play a role complementary to that of NSF.

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been supporting a substantial ocean climate research program. NOAA programs include the Equatorial Pacific Ocean Climate Studies (EPOCS), the Subtropical Atlantic Climate Study (STACS), and oceanographic components of the Global Atmospheric Research Program (GARP). NOAA also has the lead responsibility for the U.S. TOGA program.

In addition to carrying out ocean climate research, NOAA has other responsibilities that are important to the climate program. NOAA is the lead agency for the principal thrust of the National Climate Program entitled "Generation and Dissemination of Climate Information." NOAA's Environmental Data and Information Service runs the National Climatic Center that manages oceanographic data. As the climate program progresses, the management of data and information will be a factor in its success. Thus, these elements of NOAA need to be involved in the planning for large ocean climate experiments. [q] NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) has responsibility for ocean monitoring. To date, NOS has exercised that responsibility chiefly in conventional mapping and charting activities. They have missed opportunities to support monitoring useful to ocean climate, such as the Pacific tide gauge network. A global study of the ocean's role in climate demands reliable ocean observations, analogous to those taken for granted in the atmosphere. NOS ought to be working toward developing a ocean service on a par with the atmospheric service provided by the National Weather Service. Although NOS is not so far given a high priority to developing this capability, perhaps the creation of the National Ocean Survey, from what had been the National Ocean Survey, will lead NOAA, through NOS, to accept responsibility for the ocean's role in climate. They argue for

smaller field programs.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has the goal of developing spaceborne techniques for observing the ocean and thereby understanding oceanic behavior. NASA's spaceborne oceanic observations are intended to study oceanic circulation, heat content, and heat flux. Such work involves the interaction of the ocean with the atmosphere and the effect of the ocean on climate. NASA has focused on scientific questions addressable by specific earth-orbiting satellite oceanographic sensors. They have commissioned a series of studies that, though not specifically directed to climate research, provide a valuable summary of satellite oceanographic capabilities and needs.

WOCE will depend critically on remote sensing by satellite of sea-surface elevation, surface wind stress, and meteorological variables. Thus, something like the TOPEX satellite, with altimeter and scatterometer for global sensing of surface ocean currents and surface wind stress, is essential for WOCE. To date, NASA has not made a decision on this program, and the uncertainty is a major deterrent to the development of U.S. plans for WOCE.

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) does not now explicitly support ocean climate re-

search. ONR does, however, support a number of process studies, particularly at the air-sea interface and in the surface mixed layer, that are relevant to climate. For example, work supported by ONR may be important in resolving the question of the sea-surface water-vapor flux. Our current understanding of ocean/atmosphere climate interaction owes a great deal to the results of the NORPAX program, which was supported for many years by ONR. ONR is also supporting the development of techniques in remote sensing that have direct application to ocean climate research experiments. Furthermore, naval operational activities need environmental information of the type that is important to climate research.

An important ingredient in the implementation of large-scale ocean climate research programs is a consensus opinion from U.S. oceanographers that the experiments can be done and should be done. A commitment by capable scientists to participate and to see that the experiments are successful is also needed. Without the consensus and the commitment, the federal agencies will find it difficult to develop the new funding needed for supporting these experiments.

One ingredient in developing a consensus is to allow the fears of many oceanographers that all new ocean research funds will go to the large programs, like WOCE. This concern needs to be addressed. The federal agencies, and particularly NSF, must be involved. The climate program advocates in the scientific community cannot assure their colleagues in other ocean research disciplines that a proper balance will be found. Those controlling the money must give this assurance.

Here is an opportunity for program managers in NSF and other agencies to seek the opinions of oceanographers of all stripes, not just those with climate research interests. What should be the appropriate balance of support for these programs? What is the view of biological and geological oceanographers (for example) about the need for strong support of ocean climate research? Answers to such questions might be sought through National Research Council committees.

**References**

Board on Ocean Science and Policy, *Ocean Research for Understanding Climate Variations: Priorities and Goals for the 1980's*. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 1983.

Climate Research Committee, *El Niño and the Southern Oscillation*. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 1985.

Committee on Climatic Changes and the Ocean, *Summary Report of the Fourth Session, CCCO, Paris, January 1983*. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/UNESCO, Paris, 1983.

Committee on Climatic Changes and the Ocean, *Large-Scale Oceanographic Experiments in the World Climate Research Program*. World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, 1985.

Hall, M. M., and H. L. Bryden, Direct estimates and mechanisms of ocean heat transport, *Deep Sea Res.*, 29, 339-359, 1982.

Hecht, A. D., The challenge of climate to man, *Env. Trans.*, AGU, 62, 1193-1197, 1981.

Munk, W., and C. Wunsch, Observing the ocean in the 1980's, *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. London Ser. A*, 307, 439-462, 1982.

Ocean Science Committee, *The Ocean's Role in Climate Prediction*. National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C., 1974.

Oort, A. H., and T. H. Vonder Haar, On the observed annual cycle in the ocean-atmosphere heat balance over the northern hemisphere, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, 7, 781-800, 1976.

U.S. National Climate Program Office, *National Climate Program, Five-year Plan*, Washington, D.C., 1980.

Webster, F., *An Ocean Climate Research Strategy*. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 1984.

This Information Report was contributed by Ferris Webster, College of Marine Studies, University of Delaware, Lewes, DE 19958.

**News & Announcements****Seismometer Washes Ashore**

An ocean bottom seismometer (OBS) recently washed ashore at Wake Island and was shipped to the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics. It appears to be instrument number 4 of the Texas Instrument Mark III series, built in 1984 for the Air Force Technical Applications Center. Some leakage into the sphere is indicated by moderate corrosion of the internal components. About half of the tape was washed across the head.

Several such instruments were used and lost in experiments (recording of earthquakes and underground explosions) off the Kuril and Aleutian Islands in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Some instruments (serial numbers unknown) in the Mark II series may have been lost as early as 1964. Of the 18 Mark III instruments, 11 had been lost as of July 1988; we are unaware of their use (or the use of Mark IV's or V's) in recent years.

This OBS may have been in the ocean for an unprecedented number of years, and valuable data may still be present on the tape. We ask those who may be interested or who could provide details on the lost experiment in which this instrument was used to please call or write Charles McGreevy or Dan Walker, Hawaii Institute of Geophysics, 2925 Correa Road, Honolulu, HI 96822 (telephone: 808-948-8767).

This news item was submitted by Daniel Walker of the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics.

**Emerging Ocean Issues**

Seven topics have been identified by the topics committee of the Year of the Ocean as focal points of discussion, as part of the Year of the Ocean celebration. The Year of the Ocean (Env., June 19, 1984, p. 402, and April 24, 1984, p. 326) is a year-long commemoration and celebration, begun on July 1, of the oceans. The commemoration has been endorsed by Congress and by President Ronald Reagan.

The topics committee is composed of nearly 20 representatives from government, industry, and academia. Thomas Maginnis, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's office of policy and planning, is the chairman of the topics committee.

Summaries of the discussion topics and the requisite questions, as described by the Year of the Ocean, are listed below.

• Effects of Oceans on World Climate. How does the ocean affect our climate and weather? How close are we to predicting climate extremes? What are the consequences of such predictions?

• Marine Transportation. The U.S. Merchant Marine ranked first in deadweight tonnage in 1950, but by 1980, it had dropped to eighth. The U.S. relies on marine transportation for 99% of its export and import trade. What is happening to our Merchant Marine and why? How many ports can the U.S. economy continue to support? Can technology lower ship building and operating costs enough to make these industries more competitive? Will the United States have a reliable merchant marine force for national emergencies?

• The Oceans as a Source of Food. Although fish and other living marine resources provide important sources of protein throughout the world, many fish stocks have been overfished, and marine and estuarine habitats have been polluted. Domestic and international competing fishing interests require that fish stocks be managed so that populations remain stable or increase. Is the current system of allocating fish resources working adequately? What steps are being taken to determine habitat needs of important marine species? What is being done to develop markets for currently underutilized species? What is the future of aquaculture in the United States?

• The Ocean as a Source of Minerals. Do we have adequate surveys of marine mineral resources? What do we currently know about deposits there? What are the technological capabilities and limitations of developing mineral resources in extreme environments? Is technology for controlling accidents adequate? What are the ramifications of the United States not signing the Law of the Sea Treaty on development of marine mineral resources in international waters?

• Marine Recreation. Are the fish caught by recreational fisherman safe to eat? Are saltwater fishing licenses for sportspersons as well as recreational fishers encouraged to apply? Applications should be received by September 15, 1984. The salary is dependent upon qualifications. Please forward applications, curriculum vitae, names of at least three references, and other application materials to: Dr. A. J. Maxwell, Director, Institute for Geophysics, The University of Texas at Austin, P.O. Box 7350, Austin, TX 78712.

The University of Texas is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Stanford University/Plasma Physics, EM Waves, Space Physics. We are seeking a senior person who has demonstrated scientific, managerial, and leadership qualifications in one or more of the following disciplines: Space Plasma Physics, electromagnetic waves, and solar-terrestrial physics. We expect the most successful candidate to have established an outstanding reputation, documentable through publications, research grants, and/or awards and other recognition from recognized research leaders in the disciplines mentioned above, and/or awards and other recognition from appropriate professional societies.

It is expected that this individual will develop a research program in one of the disciplines given above with particular emphasis on coupling programs within the STARS, the Stanford Center for Space Science and Astrophysics. It is expected that this individual will have a strong background in experimental techniques, either in the laboratory or in the field, including the environment of space; experimental activities in either laboratory or space plasma physics would be especially useful.

• Marine Recreation. Are the fish caught by recreational fisherman safe to eat? Are saltwater fishing licenses for sportspersons as well as recreational fishers encouraged to apply? Applications should be received by September 15, 1984. The salary is dependent upon qualifications. Please forward applications, curriculum vitae, names of at least three references, and other application materials to: Dr. A. J. Maxwell, Director, Institute for Geophysics, The University of Texas at Austin, P.O. Box 7350, Austin, TX 78712.

The University of Texas is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Stanford University/Plasma Physics, EM Waves, Space Physics. We are seeking a senior person who has demonstrated scientific, managerial, and leadership qualifications in one or more of the following disciplines: Space Plasma Physics, electromagnetic waves, and solar-terrestrial physics. We expect the most successful candidate to have established an outstanding reputation, documentable through publications, research grants, and/or awards and other recognition from appropriate professional societies.

It is expected that this individual will develop a research program in one of the disciplines given above with particular emphasis on coupling programs within the STARS, the Stanford Center for Space Science and Astrophysics. It is expected that this individual will have a strong background in experimental techniques, either in the laboratory or in the field, including the environment of space; experimental activities in either laboratory or space plasma physics would be especially useful.

• Future Ocean Exploration and Technology. Topics for discussion include studying the ocean from space and alternate energy sources and ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC).—BTR

This Information Report was contributed by Ferris Webster, College of Marine Studies, University of Delaware, Lewes, DE 19958.

**ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS!**

Beginning in 1985 *Reviews of Geophysics and Space Physics* will be titled

*Reviews of Geophysics*. Approximately 800 pages to be published in Volume 23, 1985.

AGU's toll-free number is in operation

Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Use this number to:

• Change your mailing address

• Order books and journals

• Request membership applications

• Register for meetings

• Request a Publications Catalog

You also may call and request information on:

• Insurance

• Scholarship programs

• Chapman conferences and AGU meetings

• Price lists for journals

800-424-2488

871784

**Classified****RATES PER LINE**

**Positions Available, Services, Supplies, Courses, and Announcements:** first insertion \$1.00, additional insertion \$0.45.

**Positions Wanted:** first insertion \$2.00, additional insertion \$1.50.

**Student Opportunities:** first insertion free, additional insertion \$2.00.

There are no discounts or commissions on classified ads. Any type style that is not publisher's choice is charged at general advertising rates. *Env.* is published weekly on Tuesday. Ads must be received in writing by Monday, 1 week prior to the date of publication.

